

PRESS RELEASE

THE CONSULATE OF MEXICO IN NEW ORLEANS

IS PLEASED TO PRESENT THE EXHIBITION OF THE MEXICAN ARTIST

PAULINA SIERRA

FROM OCTOBER 24th TO NOVEMBER 29th, 2013

901 CONVENTION CENTER BLVD., SUITE 119., NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

OPENING RECEPTION OCTOBER 24th FROM 6:00 TO 9:00 PM



SETTLING LATIN MULTICULTURALISM.

The idea for this work came while I was living in New Orleans. It was part of my MFA thesis and a response to questions regarding how migration is becoming a permanent state in society. Along these queries a strong growing awareness arose on the topic of how different Latin cultures congregate in certain stores through the city as means to connect with their roots through language and food.

I can safely say wherever there is a tortilla machine, there is some kind of Latin neighborhood around it. It is my opinion that for settling migrants, these hubs become places of cultural resistance. The fact that tortillas machines have managed to wander to cities around the world is not only a singular example of migrating technologies but, it is also part of our mechanical heritage abroad. Tortillas, a circular plane of grinded corn have become a symbol of our "*mexicanidad*".

By mixing clay and corn together, I wanted to create a more resilient version of a tortilla. By making it lose its vulnerability and edible quality, I wanted to transform it into a structural element, almost like a brick. Three thousand clay and corn tortillas were created in a conventional tortilla machine in Mexico. These were then shipped to New Orleans and finally installed into a prefabricated structure. This work is intended to represent temporary residence or settling for migrants that leave their familiar ways behind. The intention is to show what it feels for migrants to be incorporated within structures, but through certain traditions or the gathering of different Latin similarities they find the way to stay true to their culture. These actions allow them to resist the loss of their roots and even stay defiant towards globalization.

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